

Curriculum Vitae

Vera Tolstoj, 25-11-2018

General Information

Name:	Vera Tolstoj
City:	Amsterdam
Birthdate:	04-06-1989
Birthplace:	St. Petersburg, Russia
Nationality:	Dutch
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Education and workshops

2018 (January- October)	Formative internship with The National Trust (region London-Southeast). Mainly working in the Conservation Studio of Knole House, Kent.	United Kingdom
2016 - 2018	Post-Master Programme Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, specialisation Historic Interiors. University of Amsterdam.	Amsterdam
Subject MSc- thesis:	<i>The role of the conservator in the decision making process around a restoration project and the choices for indoor climate</i>	
2014-2016	Master Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, specialisation Historic Interiors, University of Amsterdam.	Amsterdam
Subject MA- thesis:	<i>Architectural paint research to determine the original appearance of a plastered ceiling in an Amsterdam canal house from the eighteenth-century.</i>	
2012-2013	Minor Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, University of Amsterdam.	Amsterdam
2011	Minor Italian Linguistics and Literature, University of Amsterdam.	Amsterdam
2009 - 2014	BA Archaeology and Prehistory, University of Amsterdam.	Amsterdam
2006-2007	Foundation course (first year) Teachers Education in History, Windesheim University of Applied Sciences.	Zwolle
2000-2006	Gymnasium Celeanum, Ichthus College	Zwolle Kampen

January 2018	“National Trust Housekeeping Study Days”, by several National Trust professionals	Wimpole Estate, Cambridgeshire, UK
November 2017	“PASMA Towers for Users Course”, training course for safety and construction of scaffold towers	Tonbridge, Kent, UK
June 2017	Workshop “Preventive Conservation & Risk Management”, by Bart Ankersmit and Agnes Brokerhof	Amsterdam
May-April 2017	Series of workshops: “Filling and Surface Imitation”; “Varnishing materials”; “Retouching materials”, by Kate Seymour	Amsterdam
December 2016	Workshop “Materials and methods for surface cleaning and removal of film-forming materials”, by Paolo Cremonesi.	Amsterdam
March 2016	Workshop “The Artist Interview”, on how to by Sanneke Stigter	Amsterdam
February 2016	Workshop “Mirrors and flat glass”, by Patricia Jackson	Amsterdam
January 2016	Workshop “The characteristics of leather”, by Elizabet Nijhoff Asser	Amsterdam
November 2015	Workshop “Japanse Paper Techniques”, by Andrew and Sydney Thompson-Thomson	Amsterdam
October 2015	Workshop “Gilding techniques”, by Sylvia Nijhuis	Amsterdam
May 2015	Workshop “Removal of overpaint in Historic Interiors”, by Willianne van der Sar	Amsterdam
February 2015	Workshop “Graining and marbling”, by Bernice Crijns	Amsterdam
January 2015	Workshop “Traditional House painting techniques”, by Leonieke Polman	Bussum
January 2015	Workshop “Traditional pigments and their use”, by Mariel Polman and Danielle van Kempen	Amsterdam
November 2014	Workshop “Glues and adhesives”, by Danielle van Kempen	Amsterdam
September 2014	Workshop “Basics in photography for Conservation and Restoration”, by Hans Meesters	Amsterdam
September 2014	Workshop “Handling chemicals/lab safety”, by Kate Seymour	Amsterdam
February 2012	Course “Roma Caput Mundi. World heritage in Rome”, Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR).	Rome

Projects

2013 - Present	Ambassador Royal Netherlands Institute in Rome (KNIR). http://knir.it/nl/wiezijnwij/ambassadeurs.html
Description:	Representing the institute in the Netherlands through the organisation of conferences and events on the one hand, and on the other hand promoting the Institute at conferences and events through lectures and presentations. For instance:
May 2016	“De Nacht van Rome” (The Night of Rome), a multidisciplinary conference, in cooperation with the KNIR and cultural centre De Balie Amsterdam. http://www.nachtvanrome.nl/
Description:	Organisation of the event (together with a group of other Ambassadors of the KNIR): organising the conceptual/intellectual and cultural content.
2016 - Present	Editor and event manager of Roma Aeterna, a popular scientific magazine about historic and current issues in Rome. https://www.romaaeterna.nl/page/homepage .
March - August 2014	Participant, interpreter and tour guide for project “Retour Zijderoute”. http://www.hermitage.nl/nl/tentoonstellingen/expeditie_zijderoute/studentenproject.htm
Description:	As part of the exhibition “Expedition Silk Road” (February-September 2014) at the Hermitage Museum Amsterdam I was selected – together with five other international archaeology students - to participate in a research project in The Netherlands and in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kirgizstan). Several themes concerning the ancient Silk Road were investigated; my research focused on the historical spread of musical culture along the Silk Road. The results of this research project (articles, video footage and objects from our journey) were exhibited at the Hermitage Amsterdam and published on several websites. During the research trip I also acted as an interpreter (Russian-Dutch-English) and travel guide.
2013	Secretary of Student Section Restauratoren Nederland (SRN), the Dutch professional association for conservators and restorers. Meeting minutes, keep up correspondence and organising events.

Research projects and field work

- October 2018 **HuisSEN, The Netherlands:** Treatment aimed at regilding a withered early 20th century weathervane from a church in HuisSEN (The Netherlands). Activities: Gilding the object with 24k gold leaf; documentation; presentation of results to the client.



- July 2018 **Cartoon Gallery, Knole House (National Trust), Kent:** assisting National Trust paintings conservator M. Cardwell with demounting and re-attaching painted 17th and 18th century wall hangings in the Cartoon Gallery in Knole House.
Activities: Demounting the canvas paintings from their supports on the wall; carefully packing them for transport; re-attaching treated canvasses in their original location on the walls, using historic nails.



June - October
2018

Conservation Studio Knole House (National Trust), Kent: conservation of 43 17th century portraits on oak panels with decorative gilded frames from the collection of Knole House, a National Trust property in Kent.

Activities: Documentary research; documentation; surface cleaning; consolidation of heavily flaking decorative surface; stabilisation of decorative and structural elements; loss compensation.



May - October
2018

Conservation Studio Knole House (National Trust), Kent: conservation of the gilded surface of a stool commissioned by King James II in 1688, now part of the collection of the National Trust.

Activities: Documentary research; documentation; surface cleaning; consolidation of heavily flaking decorative surface; stabilisation of decorative and structural elements; loss compensation; regilding; patinating the surface.



April 2018

Several properties of the National Trust: property visits with the regional conservator (S. Barrat) in the region London & Southeast.

Activities: shadowing the regional conservator in her work; attending meetings on conservation, management and progress at different properties; performing preventive conservation audits.

March - April
2018

The Vyne (National Trust), Basingstoke, UK: This Tudor mansion in Hampshire was undergoing a major roof renovation.
Activities: Assisting the project conservator at the construction site; assessing risks to moveable and immoveable collection; working with the conservation team on the day to day collection care; installing a new storage space for the moveable collection.



March 2018

London Office of The National Trust, Grosvenor Gardens, London:

working at the London offices with the NT preventive conservation specialists.

Activities: attending several induction talks with National Trust specialists; processing blue wool dosimeters from all National Trust Properties; processing results in Microsoft Excell of a research on light doses conducted in Ickworth; assisted preventive conservation specialists in the conversion to a new system for climate data logging; attended meeting on environmental control in NT properties.

February -
March 2018

Great Hall, Knole House (National Trust), Kent: Preventive conservation and research of an 8 by 8 meter screen in the Great Hall at Knole House in Kent.

Activities: Documentary research; surface cleaning; research into the previous paint schemes of the object; writing treatment report.



January -
February 2018

Knole House (National Trust), Kent: Preventive conservation and day to day collection care in the showrooms and storerooms of Knole House.
Activities: Housekeeping; cleaning the collection; dusting; waxing marble chimney pieces and wooden floors; making sure the showrooms are ready for the visitor season; taking regular environmental measurements.



January - May
2018

Conservation Studio Knole House (National Trust), Kent, UK:
conservation of a Dutch ebony and rosewood veneered wardrobe (Kussenkast) that was found in a dilapidated state in over 60 large pieces (and many smaller fragments) in the attics of Knole House, Kent - a property of the National Trust.
Activities: Documentary research; surface cleaning with aqueous gel; removal of old adhesive; stabilisation of loose elements; repair and reconstruction of damaged elements loss compensation of missing parts; reassembly for display; presentation of results; writing treatment report.



September -
december 2017 **Different historic houses in The Netherlands:** research focused on the role of the conservator in the decision making process surrounding a restoration project. This project was done in the context of a final research assignment (thesis).
Supervisors: B. Ankersmit (RCE), N. van der Woude (SRAL), M. Lantman (UvA)
Activities: Documentary research; collection inventory; valuing heritage assets; assessing risks to moveable and immovable collection; condition check of climate installations; interviews with conservators; online survey; writing a thesis on this subject; presentation of results on a symposium.

September
2017 **Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam:** Research carried out on a overpainted panel (made from reused wood) which contains painted 17th-century parts of the ceiling of princess Amalia van Solms' bedchamber in Palace Huis ten Bosch (The Hague).
Supervisors: M. Lantman (University of Amsterdam), I. Verslype (Rijksmuseum)
Activities: Documentary research; IR-reflectography (OSIRIS camera); X-Ray photography; microscopic analysis of paint samples; uncovering 17th-century painting by removing modern paint layers; presentation of results on a symposium; writing treatment report.



July 2017

Heeswijk Castle, Heeswijk-Dinther: This project was aimed at devising an alternative for the castle's expensive and faulty climate installation. This project was carried out in collaboration with preventive conservation experts of the RCE.

Supervisors: B. Ankersmit (RCE) and M. Stappers (RCE)

Activities: Documentary research; collection inventory; valuing heritage assets; assessing risks to moveable and immovable collection; condition check of climate installations; presenting results.



June 2017

MOCO-museum Amsterdam: project carried out within the context of the workshop "Preventive Conservation & Risk Management" in the Amsterdam-based museum "MOCO"

Supervisors: B. Ankersmit (RCE) and A. Brokerhof (RCE)

Activities: Valuing heritage assets; assessing risks to moveable collection and building; presenting results to conservator/manager of the museum.



'May-June
2017

De Nollen, Den Helder Research aimed at (preventive) conservation of the artwork "Vergilius" (1992), two painted interiors in a bomb shelter in Den Helder, made by the artist R. van de Wint.

Supervisors: N. van der Woude (SRAL), M. Lantman (University of Amsterdam (UvA))

Activities: Cleaning of the painted surfaces with a specially modified aqueous cleaning gel (designed to remove dirt and mould); writing a report on conservation and treatment of the two spaces; draft a proposal for the preventive conservation (climate control) of the two rooms of the artwork.

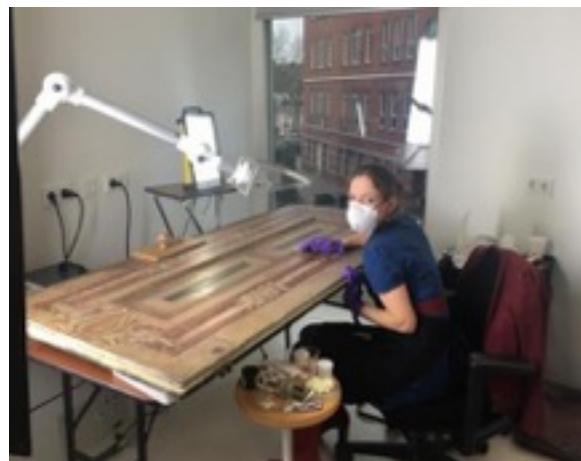


December
2016 - Present

Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam: Restoration of a 17th-century painted door from a "hofje" (a Dutch courtyard with almshouses around it) in Haarlem.

Supervisors: M. Lantman (University of Amsterdam (UvA)) and N. van der Woude (SRAL, the leading restoration institute in The Netherlands)

Activities: Documentary research; stratigraphic paint research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; cleaning the surface with a modified solvent gel; filling and retouching of the painted surface; constructive treatment (in order to make the door fit in a modern door frame); writing a treatment report.



November
2016 – January
2017

Nassaulaan 2b, The Hague: Architectural paint research carried out in a late 19th-century building (now used as an office) to determine the original appearance of the interior.

Supervisor: J. Tegelaar (UvA).

Activities: Documentary research; on-site stratigraphic research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis; virtual reconstruction; advice on reconstruction; writing a treatment report.



November
2016

Amerongen Castle, Amerongen: Assisted with conservation treatment of 18th-century painted wall hangings (oil paint on linen).

Supervisors: N. van der Woude (SRAL)

Activities: Dry cleaning; detaching the canvas to flatten the surface by means of a climate treatment.



October-
November
2016

Westerkerk Enkhuizen: Establish a baseline for the collection of the Westerkerk (Western Church) in a condition report. The collection consists of several (wooden) objects, e.g. a 16th-century choir screen, funerary hatchments and a renaissance pulpit.

Supervisors: R. Klusener (UvA) and M. Lantman (UvA).

Activities: Write a detailed condition report to establish a baseline for preventive conservation; minor treatments (dry cleaning, consolidation of flaking paint layers, (re-)attach loose ornaments on the choir screen, filling up woodworm holes; writing a guide for preventive conservation for the volunteers; writing a treatment report.



February-June
2016

Nieuwe Herengracht 143, Amsterdam: Architectural paint research carried out on an ornamental plaster ceiling and wainscoting in one of the rooms of a canal house from 1724 (Nieuwe Herengracht 143, Amsterdam). This research was part of my MA-thesis.

Supervisors: dr. M. Stols-Witlox (UvA) and N. van der Woude (SRAL)

Activities: To determine the original appearance of the room documentary research; on-site stratigraphical research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis was carried out; writing an extensive treatment report (thesis).



April 2016

De Nollen, Den Helder: Research aimed at (preventive) conservation of the artwork “Vergilius” (1992), two painted interiors in a bomb shelter in Den Helder, made by the artist R. van de Wint.

Supervisors: N. van der Woude (SRAL).

Activities: Documentary research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis; on-site testing of cleaning methods; draft a report on conservation and treatment of the two spaces.



March 2016

St. Joris Church, Amersfoort: Preliminary research on a mural painting (fresco) in the Sint Joriskerk in Amersfoort.

Supervisor: N. van der Woude (SRAL)

Activities: Visual inspection of the fresco and making a damage assessment.



October 2015-
January 2016 **Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam:** Conservation treatment of an 18th-century rococo chimney piece (oil painting on linen, mounted on a wooden frame).
Supervisors: N. van der Woude (SRAL) and D. van Kempen (UvA)
Activities: Documentary research; surface cleaning (with aqueous solutions); climate treatment to restore the surface of the canvas; consolidation of paint layers; application of strip lining on canvas; remounting the painting on its frame; application of patches and supports on holes and tears; constructive treatment of wooden frame; microscopic analysis of paint samples; writing a treatment report.



September-
October 2016 **Royal Palace Amsterdam:** Writing a “housekeeping-plan” for the preventive conservation of the interior of the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. This project was carried out in the context of the Master course “Advanced Preventive Conservation”.
Supervisors: S. Coene (Keeper of furniture Royal Palace) and C. Waldhausen (UvA).



February -
June 2015

Ateliergebouw UvA/Rijksmuseum/RCE, Amsterdam: Preliminary research on four overpainted window shutters from an 18th-century monument (het Moriaanshoofd) in Alkmaar.

Supervisor: D. van Kempen (UvA)

Activities: Documentary research; stratigraphic paint research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; SEM-EDX analysis; uncovering 18th-century painting by removing modern paint layers, using modified solvent gels; writing a treatment report.



November
2014-January
2015

Hollandsche Manege, Amsterdam: Architectural paint research to determine the original appearance of the foyer in the Hollandse Manege (riding school).

Supervisor: dr. M. Polman (UvA)

Activities: Documentary research; stratigraphic paint research; microscopic analysis of paint samples; writing a treatment report.



June-August
2013

Porticus Aemilia Campaign, Rome, Italy

Supervisors: prof. G.J. Burgers (KNIR and VU) and dr. R. A. Kok-Merlino (UvA).

Function: Assistant

Activities: Archaeological excavation of a building from the 2nd century BC; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata.

June-August
2012

Porticus Aemilia Campaign, Rome, Italy
Supervisors: prof. G.J. Burgers (KNIR and VU) and dr. R. A. Kok-Merlino (UvA)
Function: Assistant
Activities: Archaeological excavation of a building from the 2nd century BC; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata.

June-August
2011

Satricum Project, Borgo Le Ferriere, Italy
Supervisor: prof. M. Gnade (UVA)
Function: Supervisor/student
Activities: Archaeological excavation of a necropolis from the 5th century BC; in charge of an excavation pit; writing daily reports; supervise students.

June-August
2010

Timpone Della Motta Campaign, Francavilla Marittima, Italy
Supervisors: dr. J. Kindberg Jacobsen (University of Aarhus/GIA (Groningen Institute of Archaeology)) and prof. P. Attema (GIA)
Function: Assistant
Activities: Archaeological excavation of a Bronze Age hut from the 8th century BC; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata.

May-June
2010

Fieldcourse Veldhoven, Veldhoven, The Netherlands.
Supervisors: dr. A.A. Verhoeven (UvA), dr. A. Numan (UvA), dr. M. Driessen (UL)
Function: Student
Activities: Archaeological excavation of a Medieval settlement; documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata; process the finds in different computer programmes.

May-August
2009

Timpone Della Motta Project, Francavilla Marittima, Italy
Supervisors: dr. J. Kindberg Jacobsen (Aarhus/GIA) and prof. P. Attema (GIA)
Function: Assistant
Activities: Archaeological excavation of a Bronze Age temple complex from the 8th century BC. documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata; process the finds in different computer programmes.

November-
December
2008

Timpone Della Motta Project, Francavilla Marittima, Italy
Supervisors: dr. J. Kindberg Jacobsen (Aarhus/GIA) and prof. P. Attema (GIA)
Function: Assistant
Activities: Archaeological excavation of a Bronze Age temple complex from the 8th century BC. documentation; drawing and categorising the finds; measuring and drawing the strata; process the finds in different computer programmes.

October-
November
2008

Raganello Archaeological Project (RAP), Francavilla Marittima, Italy
Supervisors: prof. P. Attema (GIA), dr. M. van Leusen (GIA), dr. W. de Neef (GIA)
Function: Assistant
Activities: Archaeological field survey aimed at mapping previously unknown Bronze Age settlements in the Raganello valley. Processing the finds; categorisation of pottery.

Previous Positions

2012-present **Interpreter Russian-Dutch /English**. Last: interpreter for a meeting in restoration institute SRAL in Maastricht, between Dutch and Russian (from GosNIIR (State Research Institute for Restoration Moscow)) conservators.

2012-2015 **Hermitage Amsterdam**

Function: Employee public assistance
Activities: Welcoming visitors; providing information; sell and check tickets and provide cloakroom service; interpret and assist at concerts, lectures and exhibition construction, when Russian musicians, scholars or curators were present.

2005-2009 **Fenix Interior construction**, Kampen, The Netherlands

Function: Assistent
Activities: Summer jobs, assistance in large-scale renovation projects of interiors.

2004-2012 Several jobs in hospitality sector, catering and organic farmers markets.

Languages

Fluent: Dutch, English, Russian

Work knowledge: Italian, German, French

Skills

Architectural paint research and microscopic analysis;
Sufficient knowledge of chemistry to create modified cleaning methods;
Historic decoration techniques such as gilding, marbling and graining;
Knowledge of historic decorative and coloured finishes and architectural styles;
Trained to have a critical/ethical approach to conservation and restoration of artefacts.

Interests

Historic interiors	Design	Literature
Cultural Heritage	Music	Sustainability
Preventive conservation	Architecture	History
Art: paintings, drawings, photography, conceptual art	Archaeology	Travelling
	Philosophy	Cooking